

April 11, 1951.

Miss Marjorie Behnhoff,
Department of Medicine,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Miss Behnhoff:

Thank you for your last group of strains; it no longer matters much how many come in a given package. One or two of them were contaminated with Proteus, and it was only by plating on synthetic medium that I was able to separate the coli, so don't think this an accusation. Two or three of the cultures in this group appear to be crossing with K-12. I hope it will not put you out to continue to send similar material. However, cultures actually isolated from my plates are not likely to be useful, whereas most of those from un-treated animals remain S⁺, at least for my purposes.

Your # 41 - 46 appear to be identical, judging from appearance on EMB sucrose and on their colicidal activity. 49 and 50 are easily distinguished. 61-62 however are probably identical.

As I wrote to Dr. Miller, there may or may not be any point in attempting these comparative identifications. I would be happy to cooperate with you on this, but if the issue is really worthwhile, it should be continued on a scale incongruous with the inconvenience of transshipping the cultures and coordinating the isolations and the diagnoses at this distance.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.